

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01604 051154Z

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ACTION H-03

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R 041620Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7163

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DUBLIN 1604

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP: (RYAN, LEO) EI

SUBJ: CODEL RYAN

1. EMBASSY DUBLIN HELD ONE-HOUR MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN RYAN AUGUST 27, FOLLOWED BY LUNCHEON. WE INFORMED RYAN WE WERE WILLING TO TRY TO MAKE ANY APPOINTMENTS HE DESIRED WITH IRISH DEFENSE FORCE BUT BECAUSE OF VACATION SCHEDULES AND IRISH UNWILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS NATO MATTERS, WE THOUGHT IT BEST NOT TO PURSUE THE SUBJECT. RYAN READILY AGREED.

2. THE THRUST OF CONGRESSMAN RYAN'S QUESTIONS TO US INVOLVED WHAT HE LABELLED "A HOLE IN THE NORTHERN FLANKS OF NATO" CAUSED BY THE TEMPORARY WITHDRAWAL OF UK TROOPS FOR DUTY IN NORTHERN IRELAND. HE WAS ALSO CONCERNED THAT THE US WOULD HAVE TO MAKE AN INCREASED TROOP COMMITMENT TO COVER THE SHORTFALL; THIS AT A TIME WHEN THERE WAS RISING PRESSURE IN THE U.S. TO REDUCE TROOP COMMITMENTS IN EUROPE. WE INFORMED RYAN THAT SINCE IRELAND IS A NON-NATO COUNTRY, THIS EMBASSY WAS IN NO POSITION TO COMMENT ON WHAT HE PERCEIVED AS A WEAKENING OF NATO VIGILANCE AS A RESULT OF SUCH TROOP WITHDRAWALS. WE SUGGESTED THAT THE SUBJECT OF TEMPORARY WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS FROM NATO STRENGTH WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE ONE FOR THE CONGRESSMAN TO DISCUSS WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICERS IN THE DEPARTMENT. RYAN INDICATED HIS INTENTION TO PURSUE THE SUBJECT. HE SEEMED SATISFIED AND WE SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME DISCUSSING THE SITUATION IN THE NORTH OF IRELAND AND CURRENT ATTITUDES OF THE IRISH GOVERNMENT. RENDAHL
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PAGE 02 DUBLIN 01604 051154Z

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NNN

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